

FASHION AND GOSSIP.

Notes of Preparation for the Coming Spring.

SPRING SUITS AND WRAPS.

New styles in Cotton, Silk and Wool—interesting items by "Jennie June."

New York, March 6.

Correspondence of THE HERALD.

The season of 1884-5 will not be remembered as a brilliant one in the social history of New York; perhaps it has been more the less pleasant on that account. There is always plenty of entertainment, public and private, to fill up time, and the absence of great parade, of exaggeration and display is all compensated for by the absence also of much jealousy and heart-burning; and a really higher tone of refinement, there is already in existence an intense New York society, which is rightly guarded, and rarely represented in the society columns of newspapers; but which combines in itself all that taste and cultivation has arrived at to make life sweet and socially delightful. It is curious to see how largely the attainment of this enviable position consists in getting rid of rather than in the accumulation of things, people and objects; and in an experience which teaches the value of the real and true, of natural associations and ideas, if not trying to do what cannot be well done, trying nothing merely to imitate, but only that which is fitting; and which done in the best, most natural and truthful manner is sure to be original and most enjoyable.

There are at least individuals, if not families, whose lives are an apparent dream of refinement and educated appreciation of the best in art and literature. They are not mindful of their duty to the less favored and larger portions of humanity; but they get rid of their obligations in the gross, by subscribing to the charity organization and other comprehensive societies, and argue that the work of philanthropy is better done by these than it could be individually.

They are perhaps refined and educated too much, for they have gradually narrowed their circle, and sympathies, until they are little more than points, which pierce fatally their humanity.

The most beautiful and beautiful thing about them is that their culture has brought them back to truth, and nature; they prefer the real to the artificial; they choose simple forms and ways; and their influence is altogether good, in keeping down the cheap pretense, and vulgar artificiality of the rest of the world.

The Spice of Life.

It is very easy to get and interest to the well-to-do New Yorkers ought not to complain of not having their share of it. Gay parties, the ladies of which packed their ruby velvet, and furs, for the ice-cream at Montreal a few weeks since, have only returned home to change their wardrobe for the silks and thin wools they will need for a trip to New Orleans, and give final directions for the costume to be worn at the inauguration hall on March 4th.

Many beautiful toilettes are being prepared for that occasion; but we will surpass one, the bodice and a train of which consists of other brocade in pond-ly pattern, and the entire front of thick white satin, embroidered by hand in lily-leaf pattern in silk and pearls, with veining of silver. Cascades of exquisite lace drape the sides, and are caught up into bunches of lovely marabout feathers fastened with diamond ornaments. The bodice is low, and very deeply pointed. It is draped with the same lace which trims the skirt, and is caught up at the left with feathers, and a diamond clasp. A magnificent necklace and earrings of diamonds will be worn with this costume.

A dress of pale sea-green satin, very long in the train and bodice, will be covered with a shawl-shaped drape of Brussels point and garnished with real tulle of radiating and brilliant hues. A white dress of delicate grey and pink combined, is trimmed with knots of lace, and very narrow faille ribbon.

It is worth noting that with all the world to choose from, Miss Eva Mackey, the wife of a physician, and the daughter of the richest man in America, could find nothing more beautiful for a wedding dress than that embroidered white satin, and that this was worn totally unaccompanied with jewels.

Young girls who do not expect to figure at the inauguration hall, and who have worn out all their evening dresses, are forming sewing classes for Lent. It is quite the thing to do, to wear a light black or grey dress, a pretty apron, and meet at least one afternoon a week to drink tea, and chat and sew by the pot. The majority have as much idea of what is needed by the poor, as a nest of frisky young kittens; but their intentions are good, and there is generally some older and more experienced person to the fore, who is practical, and prevents the time from being wholly given over to fancy little blue aprons, caps, and tidies.

Notes of Preparation.

March is the black sheep in the north calendar; there is no one that would not, if it were possible, fly from its grey skies—aggressive winds—its gloomy days, and threatening nights, and its after all, even in the east, and at the north, a month of promise. The sun breaks, the days lengthen; the sun—when it does make its appearance—shows increase of power. From may be seen in the streets, but they are no longer in the show window of the window, and counters, pretty printed cottons, hats, textures, places, and the fore-hand, and those who like the choice of the novelties of the season, are busy making their selections to the country or perhaps for a quiet stay at a dressmaker, and the useful attire, and have a look of freshness. They may be the same old acquaintances, but they are not the same old acquaintances, and because there are some things that are better than mere

novelty. It is worth remarking that at the best stores are found always the largest number of old and well-known fashions, in style and fabrics. Arnold & Constable, for example, can be depended upon year after year, for the pretty Scotch seamy gingham, for the purest of spotted foulards, for exclusive and invisible checks, and mixtures in Scotch and English wools; and for original designs made expressly for them in a fine line of cottons, thin linens, and silk muslins or China silks; ruffles are required in the hot months of our variable climate. These are bought regularly year after year, by the best families in the country, and have not changed their character greatly in thirty years. Tints and ground colors vary, designs are sometimes a little larger, sometimes a little smaller, but they only go "round and round" after all, like the wheels in "Tiddie's" papa's watch.

Berry Patterns.

The patterns of the season are very diversified, but they cannot be said to follow any exact law, human or divine. What there is of nature is conventionalized, and too rigidly defined to be nature; and other forms seem merely to have been a caprice of the designer, or wearily put in to differentiate from others that have preceded them. The exceptions to this rule are in the lovely mottle cloth, with delicately shaded leaf and flower designs, upon light tinted grounds. Some representing soft clusters of tiny blossoms, with small olive leaves and woody fibres; others leaves and woodland berries and still other suggestions of small tapestry patterns which reproduce with near perfection the work of the needle.

Nearly all the new goods are figured, and a much larger number than usual upon light grounds, with no intention of combination with a plain material. This in itself is sufficient indication of the absence of bunched up draperies, and the predominance of straight skirts, and simple lines in the making up of spring and summer dresses. China silks reappear with coral and berries upon wavy grounds, or cone shaped figures in old gold, varied with brown, and set off with green leaves and grounds of the palest cream, and stone rather ecru. The colors are all revivals of those which were familiar to our grandmothers; and combinations suggest the same quaint and odd but meaningless forms. The spotted foulards are in tiny octagon shapes, in clusters of three, also upon light tinted pale blue, pink, pearl and stone colored grounds. These are varied by small geometrical and leafy three-pronged patterns which give variety to this cool and delicate class of fabrics.

Ginghams are narrowly striped and barred in the usual pink, blue, white, grey and gold with a slight admixture of darker coloring. Blues always predominate in the best class of summer cottons. Not bright or very light blues, but old China blues, and those which are softened by shading, and a little contrast with white. Very pretty solid blue cambrics are sprinkled with tiny interlocked horse-shoes, solid or outlined, and mottled with white dots. Others show very small triangular figures open toothpicks in miniature, or tiny leaves in outline. Perhaps the newest and most original of these dainty little patterns are in minute tapestry bars, upon very small checks, or hair line stripes. The cost, in view of the novelty, being 50 cents instead of 40 per yard.

The new soft silk series are our old friends, the sophies, in a new dress with small figures single or in small groups which have the effect of embroidery. These are made up in combination, the figured material in various ways, as trimming or part of the costume, the color being the same throughout. The soft finish, the lustrous effects, render these handsome fabrics very attractive, though there are still those who raise the old objection that they are not silk, though the cost is about the same as silk.

White Tucking & Embroidery.

A sudden impulse was given to the wearing of white dresses last summer by the development of machinery in its application to fine white goods and the production of a new class of white machine made embroideries. Heretofore embroideries had appeared in strips, and been used in small quantities as trimming; embroidery in the piece had been rare and expensive, only used for christening robes, or by those who could afford the cost of an expensive "washing" dress. But quite suddenly "all-over" embroidery, and "all-over" tucking; that is, tucking and embroidery covering the whole surface, spring into abundant existence, displaying variety in patterns and moderation in price. White dresses were made with whole fronts, side panels, or deep flounces of embroidery; the basque being out of the same decorative material so that the entire dress seemed to be composed of needlework, machine needlework to be sure, but the effect was the same. The stimulus thus given created a very active demand, which has encouraged manufacturers to increased efforts. The new tucked and embroidered white materials, show increased fineness, more delicate workmanship, and better taste in the selection of patterns. Fine lawns and cambrics are tucked in clusters, as well as in lines, which cover the surface. The latter so minute that there are many grades between the first and those that measure a quarter of an inch. A great many straight tucked, and straight embroidered skirts will be worn during the coming summer; the belted bodice of tucking or embroidery to match.

Cloth Suits and Wraps.

The newest Redfern gowns are in light Vienna cloths, braided with a very narrow coppery/gilt braid, which is set up on edge, is highly effective, and does not tarnish. The combination in color is quite new and the effect peculiar, but very good. The vest and panel at the left is covered with the braiding, the basque is finished with three rows, which simply form an edge; the officers' collar is braided like the vest. The skirt is formed of side plaits in fine knife clusters, alternating with broader ones, surmounted with a short draped apron turned over upon the side, and draped long at the back. A small bonnet accompanies this suit; the crown of braided cloth matching the gown, the brim of wine-colored velvet, the trimming a group of coppery red feathers.

The "Irish" costume consists of a dress and cloak of dark green cloth in an invisible stripe, the alternate stripe containing shades of brown and beige. The vest, cuffs and panel at the left side are of soft beige satin radian laid in folds and crossed at intervals by diagonal bars of dark myrtle green silk, also laid in folds, the end upon the hip passed through a mother of pearl buckle.

A cloak accompanies this dress, furnish it with a removable hood, and lined all through with beige silk. This cloak is full, laid in side plaits, yet one of the most successful garments imaginable. It will fold over from shoulder to shoulder, or one side can be thrown back to show the lining. The new jackets are in light rather rough cloths, and serges, both plain and double breasted. Braiding when it is used is upon the front, and upon the standing military collar. The cut and fit are perfect. They are not deep, but are even all round, only showing fullness in the form of inverted plaits at the back, which lay easily over the cushion placed inside of the top of the skirt of all tailor-made gowns, and which is supported by a "saddle" below, and is not therefore felt as a burden. The jackets are uniformly lined or faced with silk, the buttons alone being ornamental. The newest of these are nut shaped, and are a mixture of oxidized metal and gilt; others are perfectly formed horse shoes, with dark depressed horn centres, and pearl or silver frames, nailed in a perfectly natural manner. For spring street wear, besides these jackets, there are small cloth mantles in beige shades, lined with silk and braided, and for indoors for young ladies a new style of Jersey in red stockingette, pointed in front, with a standing collar, and a small habit basque. The finish upon the edge consists of small gold officers' buttons, current shaped, with pin head tops, which are highly effective. Upon the standing collar and also upon the cuffs, are first of gold and red silk braid. The "Connaught" wrap is a deep cape of red worsted flannel in a coarse twill, with a hood; it is lined with red silk plush, and is so wide as to fold over from shoulder to shoulder. It is exactly what is needed for evening wear at hotels, in country houses, or upon yachting expeditions. The hood is the monk shape, and the top fastens down to form a unique head-dress.

The "Dolgorouki" is a new carriage wrap; it is named from the lady who first ordered one of the kind, as the little mantle just described was named for the Duchess of Connaught. The "Dolgorouki" is made of the same material as the Connaught, but it is a long cloak with buck fitted into the waist and sleeves draped up with cornice tassels, and long loops of satin ribbon, which form profuse ornamentation in the centre, under a stylish hood. The sleeve in front forms a double cape showing the silk lining. The whole effect is striking, and very stylish, but it is only suitable for a carriage wrap. The pretty but rough woolen checks which are so fashionable in England and Scotland, have obtained much favor in Paris, but they are not liked in this country. Most of the tailor-made suits used here are worn by young women, who want fine smooth cloths, that closely define the figure. They are terribly afraid of looking stout, and will not wear a coarse wool, or a check that has a tendency to give them an appearance of embonpoint.

Spring Out-Door Garments.

A reaction has set in against the long cloak as a dress garment, and the tide has quite turned in favor of the pretty mantles, short on the back, and with long ends in front. The original feature of these is that they are fitted in at the back and held down to the waist by an interior belt; while the old ones of the same style, fashionable many years ago, were scari-shaped. One of their merits is, that they require but little material, and suit a greater variety of persons than the long cloaks. They are also "dressy," and easily made as part of a costume, or "leisure" that is, of the same material as the dress. Jackets are the only suitable addition to a tailor-made dress. The New-Market, or Ulster, made in the simplest fashion, but of soft pure materials, and silk lined, is the recognized garment for service and traveling; but spring silk, or silk and cashmere suits, pongees, surahs, and later, grenadines, muslins, lace over silk, and other summer tissues may be finished and arrayed as costumes by the addition of a little lace of ruffled mantelet. For the spring many ladies are having them made of short lengths, or remnants of rich silk satin, or soft figured brocade, with a border of velvet, plush, or chenille, "leach" fringe. The lining may be fine farmer's satin, which is warmer than twilled silk, and is now finished with such satiny smoothness as to rival pure satin.

Beige and Blue.

Beige and blue are to be very fashionable this season. Blue is a holiday color and always a favorite; but it has of late years won a place wider than ever, on account of the new and subtle shades developed, the revival of favorite "old blues," and the adaptability of new ones to a wider range of wearers. Blue has usually been considered peculiarly youthful. Ladies sensitive on the subject, thought they could not wear it after a certain age, and to those to whom blue is becoming, the development of toned blues, such as smoke, grey blue, electric blue, stone blue, and others, prolongs the period of their wearing their favorite color; and is a source of pleasure and satisfaction. There is no doubt as to the cheerfulness, or otherwise, of color in dress, and surroundings; and the universal and economic use of blue, is therefore from this point of view, to be deprecated, and the use of livelier coloring encouraged. The smoke blues, in some of which are suggestions of both grey and green, are particularly handsome in the new fall silks of soft and rich quality; they are well adapted for elegant spring costumes, and may be worn by ladies of almost any age. The sapphire blues are more delicate, they trim richly with velvet, and have been selected for the handsome "traveling" costumes of several brides, who utilize them as bridal, and afterwards as visiting costumes, the real traveling suits being less expensive and elegant.

The prettiest gingham are made of narrow clustered stripes in two tones of old, or stone blue, and the most attractive percales, cambrics, and linens, in solid grey and old China blues, with minute white rings, small forked, or interlocked figures sprinkled over the surface.

Beige or twine color has been fashionable, more or less, and in an exclusive sort of way, for many years; it possesses great refinement, is soft and capable of artistic effects, but lacks character, unless enriched with wrought lace or embroidery, and is not becoming to all. It is paler, however, and lacks the dull yellow tint which renders some shades of ponce so obnoxious; and looks well made up with lace of the same shade, and trimmed with black or bronze velvet bows in rich materials. The most suitable decoration is embroidery and lace; but pale beige linens, thin wools, make very pretty and refined summer dresses, trimmed with lace and velvet.

White wool, and twilled flannel suits, will, it is thought, have a vogue this summer, with good braid or knife trimming.

Cut heads and small buttons, as an edge for basques and Jerseys, are effective if handsome and put upon the right materials, and in suitable combinations; but in common glass or metal and upon cheap materials, they are a vulgar affectation.

Bonnets are small this season, hats larger and more varied in style. A useful selection for those who cannot afford to match every dress, is a hat of black straw, or chip, useful size, faced with black velvet and trimmed with a group of black ostrich tips; and a white straw bonnet faced with gathered silk, or lace, and trimmed with lace, soft silk, or China crape, and clover, buttercups, daisies, or bunches of delicate lilac.

A medium, or serviceable bonnet can easily be made to match a cloth suit by covering the crown with the cloth, and using a scrap of velvet or plush for a small puffed brim; a wing and a bow with strings to match, completes it. The newest thing in vests to wear next the skin, is a closely ribbed, low necked, and short sleeved Jersey jacket. It is in silk and wool, and is so closely woven that in the hand it seems only fit for a baby, but it is so elastic as to be large enough for a stout woman. Upon the body it clings like another skin, but is extremely fine, soft and delicate. They are lovely summer vests, but as yet only samples (imported) are to be seen.

It is a little curious that such a thing as a plain sacque is not to be found in New York City. The sacque-shape has gone out of fashion, everything is fitted, and so there is no longer a simple sacque to be obtained. A lady who wished to obtain a plain, white woolen sacque, searched New York recently, and could only find "jackets" fitted as if for the street, with tight sleeves, turned down collar, and pockets, real or sham, at the back of the skirt. She was an invalid and required something quiet and easy, without color or appendages. The only alternatives were a few bright blue, pink or red things, with a sickening amount of cheap Oriental lace, and ribbon bows called "bedroom" sacques. Will some one not take the trouble that is awaiting by filling the demand for invalid sacques?

It was stated recently and copied widely, that every young lady in New York City, now had a "prayer" rug, and that the more costly ones were objects of eager ambition, and intense desire on the part of girls, who wished to excite the envy of their associates, by the possession of a more antique specimen than they possess.

The principal of a fashionable finishing school for young ladies, saw the paragraph and thought she would test it. She cut it out and read it to her three hundred young ladies, from the best, that is the most wealthy, families in New York. Not one had a prayer rug, and only three knew what the term meant.

The Patience Party.

Calder's Hall has seldom, if ever, held a happier company, on the occasion of the party given to the members of the Patience opera company, and a few invited friends, than assembled on Friday evening. Most of young ladies and gentlemen who delighted the large audiences two weeks ago were present, dressed in the same costumes used in the last scene. At 8.30, the excellent band commenced the grand march, which was one of the most picturesque ever seen on a ball room floor in this section of the country. From that time until 12.30 the floor was kept filled with the dancers, at which hour, the company adjourned to Arbogast's, where an elegant oyster supper was enjoyed by all. It was a very pleasant affair and a fitting sequel to the rendition of the charming opera.

Progressive Euchre.

Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Conklin gave a pleasant sociable to twenty or thirty of their friends on Tuesday evening, progressive euchre being the principal topic discussed. There were two rooms of guests, and two games went on at the same time. Governor Murray, Mr. David Murray, Miss Mercy Walker and Mrs. R.C. Chambers were awarded the first prizes, while the "Booby" honors were won by Lieutenant Taggart, Mr. Boyd Park, Miss Blanch Kimball, and another lady whose name, fortunately for her, escaped us. The evening was most speedily and enjoyably passed by every one fortunate enough to be present.

Pleasant Birthday Surprises.

A pleasant surprise was given Mr. David Evans, of the Twelfth ward, on Monday evening last, the occasion being that gentleman's birthday anniversary. During the evening songs, readings, games and a sumptuous supper were enjoyed by those present, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Midgley, John Midgley and wife, Joshua H. Midgley and wife, Mrs. Rhoda Murphy, Mrs. Anne Evans, Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Snelgrove, Mr. and Mrs. William Fuller, Miss Mabel Park, Miss Lang, Mr. David Midgley, Mr. Bennie Lang, Mrs. Amelia Davis, Messrs. John and W.F. Taylor and a number of others.

Still the Surprise.

Tuesday evening the residence of Mr. and Mrs. R.G. Taysum, was invaded by a large number of friends who came in the guise of a surprise party, the occasion being the second anniversary of their marriage. Among those present were: Mrs. H. Dinwoodey, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. G.T. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. L.M. Earl, Mrs. R.E. Savage, Mrs. Rudgar Clawson, Misses Taysum, Miss Alice Simmons, Miss Minnie Young, Misses Pratt, Messrs. A.W. Raybould, A.F. Taysum, L.A. Brim, George E. Bourne, C.S. Smith and many others.

Gossip.

Social events have been few and quiet during the week just past.

JUDGE ZANE does not allow Lent to interfere with his enjoyment. He was an interested spectator of Richelieu the other evening.

A GREAT portion of our space is given to the interesting letter published above, by one of the best known writers on the subjects she handles.

Mrs. ALLEN's class of young ladies, in gymnastics and calisthenics, gave a very interesting exhibition at Hammond Hall on Friday evening, to a delighted audience. The performances made quite an interesting appearance, and their evolutions, with dumb bells, etc., were such as to favorably impress the spectators. Miss Almy furnished the piano music in her usual excellent style, and the class was led by Miss Florence Hempstead.

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Winter Stock, in order to utilize the space for Spring Goods, and offer all our Winter Goods at less than cost. The stock consists of Ladies' Misses and Children's Underwear and Hosiery, Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats, Woolen Goods, Gloves, etc. Ladies desirous of purchasing goods in these lines will do well to compare prices and save from 20 to 35 per cent.

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